Application No.: 09/964,312 Docket No.: HO-P02301US0

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration. As currently amended, among other differences, none of the cited art either alone, or in combination anticipates or renders obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02301US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: MARCH 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Edward D. Steakley

Registration No.: 47,964

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKY L.L.P.

1301 McKinney, Suite 5100 Houston, Texas 77010-3095

(713) 651-5423

(713) 651-5246 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant